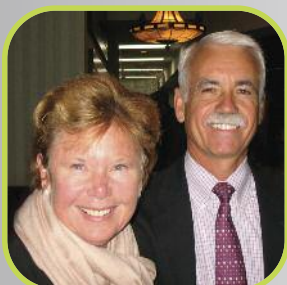




ROCKFORD AREA ARTS COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT



September 2008 – August 2009

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Arts Enthusiasts,

The Rockford Area Arts Council is proud to be reporting the past year's successes. Your support allows the Arts Council

to reach out in our region to bring the arts to everyone, young and old, from every economic and ethnic background. Here are highlights of the 2008 – 2009 season.



Anne E. O'Keefe

● ArtsPlace

Forty-five youth successfully completed the summer arts apprenticeship. This was the 14th year of ArtsPlace and the first year at Auburn Freshman Campus. The "Emerge" Performance, July 31st and August 1st, featured culminating work by all teams:

The **Therapeutic Drama Team** presented "Let's Work It Out — Don't Kick Us Out," an original play on teen homelessness. The ArtsPlace **Dance Team** performance depicted the history of jazz and gave tribute to



Michael Jackson. The **Printmaking, Sculpture and Paint Team** exhibited and sold their work, and members of the sculpture team presented performance art during the intermission. The quality of work by all teams was exceptional. Major sponsors of the program this year were: **National Endowment for the Arts**, the **Rockford Park District**, the **Rockford School District**, the **Illinois Arts Council** and the **Illinois Department of Human Services**. A special grant from the Illinois Arts Council paid for sign language interpreters for a drama team apprentice. (45 youth / ages 14 – 19)

● Totally Arts Camp

Collaboration with the **Rockford Park District – Arts Camp** at **Ellis Arts Academy** for children 5 – 13. The Arts Council works with the Park District to identify artists and provides artist assistants for the program. An average of sixty-five children enrolled in each session and participated in dance, drama, music, video, rap, and visual arts. Each session was two weeks and culminated in a performance for family and friends held in a state-of-the-arts theater at Ellis Arts Academy. (200 children / ages 5 – 13)

● 21st Century After-School Programs

We hired artists to work in after-school programs at two schools this year: **Haskell** (dance and video production), and **Ellis** (dance, drama, visual arts, music). Artists create theme based art lessons that culminate in performances and exhibits in which their friends and family are invited to attend. (250 children / K – 8th)

● Family Festival

This year we collaborated with the **Rockford Early Learning Council** to present the **Family Festival**... an afternoon of arts & information for families. The *Festival* was held April 26 at Riverfront Museum Park. The *Festival* coincided with the opening of the **Rockford Art Museum's Young Artist Show**. The *Festival* was free and featured performances and art exhibits by area students, hands-on workshops



and demonstrations by teaching artists and arts and cultural organizations. The importance of arts education for children and information for families about arts learning opportunities in the area was presented. (Over 1200 people attended and seven arts organizations presented information)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

● **Teacher Fellowship for the Arts**

The Arts Council initiated the **Teacher Fellowship Program** in June. The *Fellowship Program* is for District #205 classroom teachers who are committed to integrating arts into their curriculum. Teachers accepted into the program receive support and training to create arts-infused lessons to actively engage their students. Intensive in-services were offered in June. They provided information on area arts resources and specific arts lessons and techniques from varied arts disciplines: drama, literary arts, movement, music and visual arts. Participating teachers earned CPDU credits and will receive mini grants to pay for consumable supplies needed to present the lessons in their classroom. Lessons created by the teachers will be posted on the Arts Council's website. The *Fellowship* artists will meet every other month throughout the year to share best practices and learn more arts integration techniques from artists and arts educators. Eight teachers participated in this year's fellowship program. This program is supported by the **Educator's Memorial Fund**, an endowment gift managed by the Arts Council for the purpose of promoting arts integrated learning in the public schools.

● **Artists in Schools Grant Program**

Grants were awarded to schools through the **50/50 Grant Program** for arts residencies, field trips and performances for schools. Ten grants were awarded that benefited over 2,000 children.



● **Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Competition**

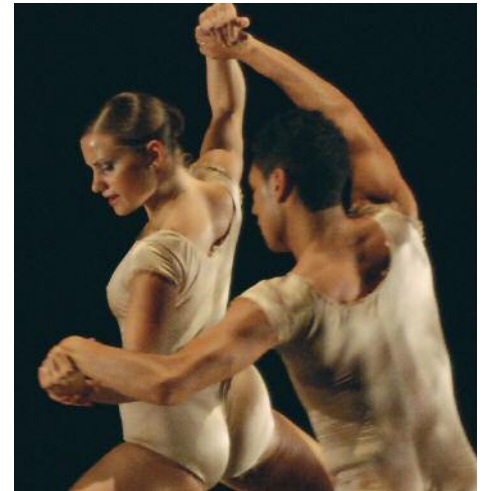
Poetry Out Loud is a free national program sponsored by the **National Endowment for the Arts** and the **Poetry Foundation**. *Poetry Out Loud* encourages youth to learn about great poetry through memorization and performance, which help students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about literary heritage. Last year over \$100,000 in prizes were awarded to students and schools.



The **Illinois Arts Council** designated the **Rockford Area Arts Council** as one of seven organizations throughout the state to facilitate *Poetry Out Loud* regional competitions. The regional competition was held at **Spectrum School**. Winner, **Beth Hopkins** and first runner up, **Alex Peterson**, of Spectrum High School were regional winners and went on to compete in the state competition held in Springfield. **Johnny Cooper** of Auburn was second runner up. **Kareem Sayegh** from Champaign, IL was the state winner and placed third at the *National Poetry Out Loud* competition.

● **Special Project: Illinois Arts Council – Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago**

The **Illinois Arts Council** asked RAAC to organize a two day dance workshop and performance for the



Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago dance troupe. The troupe performed at **Ellis Arts Academy** during school and conducted master dance classes at Ellis and **Auburn High School**. The students were very impressed and their dance teachers stated the students were inspired to work harder in subsequent dance classes.

Anne E. O'Keefe,
Executive Director



GRANTS AWARDED IN 2009

The **Rockford Area Arts Council** annually awards grants to artists, arts organizations and community groups. These grants are made possible in part by the **City of Rockford** and the **Illinois Arts Council**. The RAAC serves Boone, DeKalb, Ogle and Winnebago Counties. We would like to thank all our grant recipients for their fine contributions to the community through the arts!

Access Grants

Projects bringing the arts to people traditionally underserved by the arts

Grantee	Grant
Art Attack School of Art	\$2,500
<i>"The Art Attack – On The Road" collaboration between our non-profit arts organization and public schools</i>	
Carpenter's Place	\$2,000
<i>"Applause and Appreciation!" Art classes for homeless adults</i>	
Crossroads Blues Society	\$1,090
<i>"Blues in the Schools" introduces students to the root of most of today's music, the original American art form known as the Blues</i>	
Doug Furze	\$2,000
<i>Reminiscent Music with Seniors</i>	
KANTOREI, The Singing Boys of Rockford	\$2,500
<i>A collaborative effort for youth in celebration of Abraham Lincoln's 200 year anniversary</i>	
Kishwaukee College Family Literacy Program	\$1,060
<i>"The Arpilleras Project: The Telling of Our Families' Stories" An art and literacy program for ELL families</i>	
Kishwaukee Symphony Orchestra	\$1,000
<i>Children's Concert of the KSO</i>	
Milestone, Inc.	\$1,173
<i>"Resident Artist" A project to expose the arts to adults at Milestone</i>	
Rockford Art Museum	\$1,250
<i>"Artist-in-Residence Program" A collaboration with regional artists to work with K-12 students in RAM tour opportunities</i>	
Rockford Dance Company	\$1,500
<i>Ellis Ballet Class, Year 3</i>	
TOTAL	\$16,073

Community Arts Project Grants

Education, outreach, and/or promotional events

Grantee	Grant
Boone County Arts Council	\$900
<i>Musician David Stocker and ONE Drum will perform at Belvidere High School</i>	
Children's Theater Project	\$1,000
<i>Arts Workshop in vocal, music, dance and drama for children ages 6 – 12</i>	
Discovery Center Museum	\$1,800
<i>"Messy Mondays in the Art Studio"</i>	
Festival of Fantasy	\$1,500
<i>Children's Halloween parade at Cherryvale Mall</i>	
Mendelssohn Performing Arts Center	\$2,500
<i>"125th Anniversary Concert"</i>	
Rockford Concert Band/ Rockford Wind Ensemble	\$2,120
<i>"Six Concerts Under the Stars" A free series of concerts in the Sinnissippi Park Music Shell</i>	
Rockford Dance Company	\$1,000
<i>"Do You Know Fairytales?" The art of storytelling through dance for elementary students</i>	
Rockford Park District Foundation	\$2,500
<i>"Building A Dream: A Century of the RPD" Celebrating 100 years of the RPD through music and drama</i>	
Rockford Wind Ensemble	\$2,000
<i>Seventh Annual Youth Honors Band workshop and performance</i>	
The Music Academy Foundation	\$2,500
<i>"An Afternoon with Christopher Taylor and Music Academy Piano Palooza"</i>	
TOTAL	\$17,820

Action Grants

Open admission grants for small projects

Grantee	Grant
North Suburban Library	\$350
<i>"Be Creative @ Your Library" 2009 Summer Reading Club</i>	
Rockford Park District	\$350
<i>"Sounds of Summer" Free Concert Series</i>	
Rockford Public Schools	\$200
<i>"All Star Visual Arts Exhibit"</i>	
TOTAL	\$900

2009 TOTAL GRANTS \$34,793

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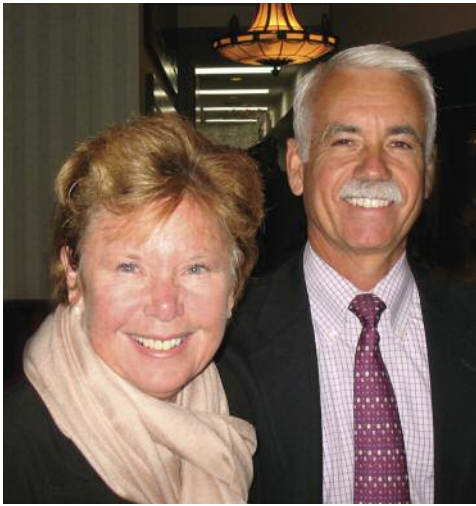
RAAC State of the Arts Awards

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In-Kind

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Congratulations to our first State of the Arts Award Recipients



INDIVIDUAL ARTS ADVOCATE:
Wendy and Roger Fisher

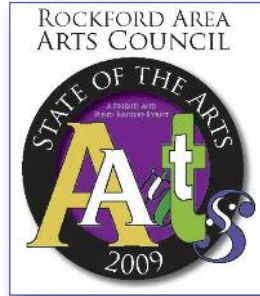


CREATIVE CULTURAL EVENT: *“Sleeping Beauty” presented by the Rockford Dance Company – Cindy Lantz, RDC Executive Director, with Margaret Faust, RDC Artistic Director*

The Rockford Area Arts Council hosted the **2009 State of the Arts Awards Luncheon** on October 1 at Cliffbreakers Restaurant. This annual fundraiser honored recipients of the **Mayor’s Arts Awards** and celebrated achievements in the arts for the past year.

Awards were given for **Individual Artist, Individual Arts Advocate, Community Impact by a Business** and **Creative Cultural Event**.

Congratulations to the **2009 State of the Arts Awards** Recipients and Event Sponsors!



Individual Artist

Douglas Furze

Individual Arts Advocate

Wendy Fisher

Community Impact by a Business

Aqua-Aerobic Systems, Inc.

Creative Cultural Event

Sleeping Beauty presented by **Rockford Dance Company**

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COMMUNITY IMPACT BY A BUSINESS: *Aqua-Aerobic Systems, Inc.* From left to right: **Jake Brubaker, CEO Aqua-Aerobic Systems, Inc; Anne O'Keefe, RAAC, President & CEO; Sue Brubaker; and Dennis Horton, RAAC Board President.**

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